

The Athenian Mercury.

Tuesday, April 16. 1655

Quest. 1. **I**S the General opinion true, that women have a greater inclination to matrimony than men?

Ans. So far as they are more honestly inclined; for where men have a less esteem for it, 'tis not because they have an aversion to the Sex, but affect a greater liberty of roving (tho indeed we think it impossible that that should add to their happiness) than ever God and nature designed them.

Quest. 3. Pray, Gentlemen, be pleased to give me your answer to these three questions.

1. Why our Saviour cursed the fruitless Fig-tree, seeing it was not yet the time of figs; nor could he reasonably have expected any thereon at that time, without a miracle?

2. Why David, being a man after God's own Heart, should at his Death give a charge to Solomon not to let Joab and Shimei go down to their graves in peace, because they had done evil to him in his life time, as you will see in the 2d Chap. of the 1st of Kings, which looks as if he died with malice in his heart; and should any Christian do so in this age, it would be thought he died not in Charity with the world?

3. Why Job, being allowed to be the greatest example of patience, should yet spend great part of a Chap. in Cursing the day and hour of his Birth, as you will see in the 3d of Job; and should any man do so now we should be apt to accuse him guilty of rash words?

Ans. The question about the fig-tree has been answered once or twice already, to which we refer the querist.

Ans. This charge of Davids was doubtless agreeable to that justice and equity which was one of those qualities that made him be stiled a man after Gods own heart; since they had both deserved Death, the one for his infidelity and murders, and the other for rising up against, and opposing the King as much as was in his power, for which Davids Captains thought him worthy of immediate Death. And it being so easy a thing for the King, if he had born them any ill will, particularly upon his own account, to have taken them off, 'tis plain that 'twas justice and not revenge that made him lay this injunction, he having spared them during his own life, that being a passion which knows no limits where it wants not power.

Ans. The unexemplary patience of Job appears in his quiet resignation to the will of Heaven, under such pressing afflictions, and that of such a nature, and so successively followed by one another, that we are pretty confident never any man else had the trial of; and we doubt the best Christians, if they sustained but one part of his afflictions, would be apt in some moments to be guilty of rather expressions; 'Tis true this shews he was not perfect, altho he far exceeded all others, and even deceived the Devil himself, who had been a long experienced tempter, and knew too well how to prevail over most men.

Quest. 4. What was the Ancient Hypothesis of the Air, and its affections?

Ans. They held it to be an Element humid and warm; its motion upwards, its place between fire and water, and divided it into three Regions; the lower, which begins at the Earth or Water and reaches up to the place of the Clouds, because so far the beams of the Sun are more strongly reflected from the Earth, whose streams they carry with them to be matter of these Clouds. The middle, which at the extent of the Lower Region reaches to the top of the Clouds; and this is said to be the coldest of the three, for these two reasons, first, because 'tis so far from the Sun that many of its rays cannot reach it, and also at such a distance from the Earth, that the reflected rays ascend not to it. And, secondly, because, according to the Antients, the cold vapours which are drawn up by heat, returning to their native cold, Cool and Chill the Air that is mingled with them. And as fire besieged with cold in frosty weather, scorches vehemently, having its heat thereby intended, so the middle Region of the Air being beset on each side by those warmer ones, hath between them its cold intended also. The vapours which are naturally cold, have their cold strengthened, as hot vapours by their Neighbouring cold are heightened sometimes to a flame. From these reluctances proceed the generation of meteors, in this part of the Air, but whether the Air it self has any native cold to be intended may well be doubted as contrary to their definition of Air. These two Regions together are called the Earths Atmosphere, the extent whereof has been variously assign'd, some of 'em affirming it to be in height three miles perpendicular from the surface of the Earth, some four, some seven, and some much more. Olympus is said to have its name from a Greek word, which signifies clear from Clouds, they ascending not so high. 'Tis also told us of a part of the Alps near Paluz, that there is an hill so high that persons ascending it, have gone from great heat at the bottom, through snow in the middle, to dry land at the top, where no rain or dew comes; and therefore no vegetable is there to be seen, and that below them they observed Thunder and Lightning and great Storms, and yet that they themselves have not felt the least motion of the Air. And the like account we have in the Philosophical transactions of the Peak of Teneriff. And the highest Region of the Air is from the top of the Clouds to the Element of Fire, according to the Antient manner of speaking; this is so subtle and thin, that 'tis unfit for persons to breath in, wherefore those which have gone up to the tops of these high hills, have been forc'd to carry moist sponges in their teeth, to qualify the Air. This Region is said to keep its quality of extent, whereas the others vary it, for in the summer the lower is bigger, in the winter less, giving to or taking from the middle according to the more direct or oblique reflections of the Suns Beams, direct reflection rising higher than oblique, the Angle of Incidence and that of reflection being the same. They ascribe these qualities to the affections of the Air, fluidity, elasticity, and weight, absolutely considered with respect to the mixtures in the Atmosphere.

First, Fluidity, or an easy separation of its parts which have no Cohesion, from whence arises that aptness in it to receive Heterogeneous bodies, such as Rays of light, steams of the Atmosphere, and evaporations from particular bodies, which give pleasing or offensive scents.

Secondly, Elasticity, or Springiness, from whence it has an aptness to return to its due extension, when the parts are pressed together, or stretcht asunder beyond their natural state: the compression of Air is called condensation, it having then more matter in less space; and its contrary, distention, is called Rarefaction, because it has less matter in greater space.

Thirdly, Weight or tendency to the center of the *Terraqueous* Globe, of which it is necessary it should have some proportion, else the upper Region, at least, would be diffused and lost in the *Ether*, which lies between us and the other planets, nor would the streams of the Atmosphere be held up by the reflection of the Sun's Beams, nay those very Beams could not well return to the Sun, unless supported by the Air, till they come to the surface thereof, and into the *Ether*, where they meet no resistance.

Besides these absolute, they ascribe respective affections to the Air, which are mingled with our watery streams in the Atmosphere, and are produced by the reflecting Beams of the Sun carrying away something of what they strike upon; and from this it is that the two lower Regions have not only the first qualities hot, dry, Cold and Moist ascribed to them, but also two other attributes, greater weight, and aptness for breathing.

The Undertakers of the Royal Academies, having met with great Encouragement from his Majesty, as also by the advancement of a considerable sum of money upon it, have resolved to draw the 25th of this Instant April; and those that come not in by that time, will lose considerable advantages. Tickets and Proposals at large, with a Postscript in Vindication thereof, may be had at the following places, viz. Mr. Gillflower in Westminster-hall, Mr. Chapman at the Angel in the Pall-mall, Mr. Partbridge near Charing-cross, Mr. Sanders in the New-Exchange; Mr. Lowms over against Exeter-Exchange; Mr. Briscoe in Russel-street, Covent-Garden; Mr. Brown at the Bible without Temple-Bar; Mr. Keeble at the Turk's-Head in Fleetstreet; Mr. Harrison at Lincoln's-Inn-Gate; Mr. Sare at Grays-Inn-Gate; Mr. Baitman in Middle-Row, and Mr. Baitman at the Bible, both in Holborn; Mr. Bennet at the Half-Moon, Mr. Evates at the Green-Dragon, both in St. Paul's Church Yard; Mr. Hindmarsh at the Golden-Ball over against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill; Mr. Guillian near the Sun-Yard in Bishopsgate-street, all Booksellers; Mr. Place Stationer at Furnivall's-Inn-Gate; and Mr. Davis at the Paper Warehouse in Henrietta-street, in Covent-Garden.

Advertisement.

The 16th Volume of the *Athenian Mercury* is now published.

Mr. Sault's Translation of the 2d Volume of Malbranche's *Search after Truth*. To which is added the Life of Malbranch. Both printed for John Dunton.

Observations on the Venereal Disease, in which is shewed the several ways of Receiving the infection, and the signs when received, with the dangerous effects of it, and the mischiefs done by ignorant persons, who pretend to several ways of curing it. With the true and safe way of curing the said Disease and all the Accidents that attend it; by Charles Peters, Chirurgion. Price bound 1 s. Sold by the Author at his house in St. Martins-Lane, 4 doors from Newport-street, and by no other. Near which place is a Large Room to be Lett, fit for an Auction, Dancing, or Musick-Room.

The Unparalleled Adventure, or 1 in 7 certain is deferred to the 23d instant, all things being Ready, except the final Tickets, which are to be had any time after the 18th. Notice is to be delivered after the 20th. Any Adventure may have 7 Tickets for 50 s. giving a Receipt according to the Proposals, which may be had of most Eminent Goldsmiths.

An Invitation to a new Sale for Tobacco, in which there will be two Blanks to one Benefit. There will be delivered out 16000 Tickets at 12 d. per Ticket, for which there will be 4084 Benefit Parcels of the best Cut and Dried Tobacco, one Parcel 150 pound weight, one 100, two 80 pound each, two 60, four 50, four 25, ten 20, twenty 15, thirty 10, sixty 5, one hundred 4, two hundred 2, four hundred 2, four thousand two hundred and fifty 1; first drawn 10, last drawn 10 pound, Benefit or not. By Ch. Fisher, the Corner of Pope's-head-Alley; or at his House, the Ship in Broadstreet, at Jonathan's, and the Barbado's Coffee-house, near the Exchange, and Lloyd's Coffee house in Lombard-street; where you may have Proposals at large. The occasion of putting it off till April 29. 1695. is by reason of the Holy-Days, and it being the last week of the Term, several Gentlemen will be present that have taken Tickets. Then certain to be drawn. Blank and Benefit Tickets to be printed.

At the Kings-Arms, in the Minories, being the late Dwelling house of Mr. George Fisher, Gunsmith, Deceased, is to be sold all sorts of Fine and Ordinary Arms, viz. Birding-Guns, Carbines, Pistols, Mousquets, Musquettoons, Musquetoon-Pistols, at very reasonable rates, and likewise the house to be let, being very Convenient for any shop-keeper. Inquire at the place aforesaid.

These are to give Notice, That there is a Fair granted to be kept in Brookfield Market place, near the East corner of Hyde-Park in Middlesex, for all sorts of Goods, and the two first days will be for Live Cattle and Leather. It will begin on the first day of May next, 1695. and continue till the 16th day, and so will be held Yearly at the same time and place.

Whereas the Adventure called the Prettiest Jewel, was designed to be drawn upon the 15th of this instant April, the undertakers, upon an exact Computation, find that there is but 8270 odd Pounds taken out; and that they may do things with deliberation, Resolve it shall be Drawn full the 2d of May, and that no Tickets be delivered out after the 25th of April. Tickets and Proposals may be had of Capt. Passil, at the King's Arms, Mr. Nathaniel Ragdale, at the King's Head, Mr. Edward Harrison, at the Hen and Chickens, Mr. John Gilpin, at the Golden Anchor in Cheap-side, Mr. Thomas Minshull, at the Golden-Falcon, Mr. Robert Cole, at the Golden Anchor in Fleet-street, Mr. Samuel Layfield, at the White-Horse in Lombard-street, Mr. Roberts, at the Dragon, near the New-Exchange in the Strand, Captain Pitts, in Holbourn, Mr. Andrew Coleman, in East-Smithfield, Mr. Richard Adams, at the Black-Horse in the Strand, Goldsmiths. Mr. Lloyd, at his Coffee-House in Lombard-street. Mr. Sanders, at the Carlisle-Coffee-House near Guild-Hall, Mr. Buckeridge, at his Coffee-House, near the George-Inn in Aldersgate-street. Mr. Colman, at his Coffee-House, near the King's Head Tavern in the Burrough of Southwark. Mr. James Mathburn, Mercer, at Oxford. Mr. Edmond Anlaby, Ironmonger, at the Corner of Greek-street near Sog-Hoe. Mr. Brown, at his Coffee-House in King's-street, Westminster. Mr. George Webb, at his Coffee-House, in West-Smithfield. Mr. Thomas Eye, Tallow-Chandler, near the Bell in Shoe-lane. Mr. Angel, at the Angel in Ludgate-street. Mr. Laud Doyley, Goldsmith, in Lombard-street. All which Persons stand Accountable for the Sums by them Received.